

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



March 8, 1993

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 93-17

<input type="checkbox"/>	State Law Change
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Court Order or Settlement Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarification requested by One or More Counties
<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: Reduction of Time Eligibility for Federal Reimbursement for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Program Costs.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has been notified by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) that effective April 1, 1993 through September 30, 1993, ORR will reimburse the State for RCA and RMA program costs for the first five months that a refugee is in the United States (U.S.) rather than the first eight months. The rule change was published March 1, 1993 in Federal Register No. 58 (page 11793). The reduction is necessitated by the limited funds appropriated for transitional and medical services (TAMS) for Federal Fiscal Year 1993. This change in the RCA time-eligibility period does not affect the Unaccompanied Minor Program.

The CDSS is formally protesting ORR's decision to reduce RCA time-eligibility to five months. In the meantime, however, we are proceeding as quickly as possible to meet the April 1 deadline.

Counties must immediately identify all existing RCA cases affected by the time-eligibility reduction. Refugees terminated from RCA must be sent a timely Notice of Action (NOA) and should be evaluated, if still categorically eligible, for other programs.

New applicants who have been in the U.S. five months or longer, and who would have been otherwise eligible for RCA, must instead be evaluated for eligibility for other assistance programs.

Counties must also notify the Central Intake Points/Central Intake Units via the RS 18 (Information Transmittal Form) that registrants who are discontinued from RCA due to the new reduction in time-eligibility will no longer be required to participate in refugee resettlement program-funded employment and training services. However, those RCA clients already enrolled in those services will be permitted to complete the component.

NOTICES OF ACTION

The enclosed NOA messages listed below are to be used for approval and denial of RCA applications, and the discontinuance of recipients from the RCA program due to time-eligibility expiration.

1. M69-203A (3/93) - RCA Discontinuance Due to Time-Eligibility Expiration
2. M69-203B (3/93) - RCA Application Denial
3. M69-206A (3/93) - RCA Application Approval

Translations of the NOAs are being prepared and will be forwarded to the counties as soon as possible.

FISCAL CLAIMING INSTRUCTIONS

Those RCA cases which have not exceeded the five-month time-eligibility period as of April 1, 1993, will continue to be claimed on the DFA 846. Those RCA cases which have time expired (exceeded five months) must not be claimed or included on the RCA payroll. The five-month reduction does not impact the claiming for unaccompanied children which are also reported on the DFA 846.

Time study instructions will be forthcoming in the April-June 1993 county fiscal letter.

STATISTICAL REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Refugee Resettlement Program - Cash Grant Caseload Movement Report (Forms RS 237)

All counts reported on this form for the RCA Program will reflect the five-month limitation for time-eligibility. For example, in the RCA columns, Line 8a(2), "Time-Eligible Persons", counties should report refugees who have resided in the U.S. from one to five months; on lines 9a and 9b, "RCA" only, counties should report the number of cases and persons that were terminated because they became time expired after five months.

2. Refugee Report, Time-Expired Cases and Persons (Form RS 22A)

All counts on this report will reflect those refugees who have time-expired at five months and who are still receiving Medi-Cal benefits and/or county-only General Assistance/General Relief.

3. Refugee Assistance by Nationality Annual Report (Form RS 238)

Counts reported on this form for RCA will reflect the five-month limitation for time-eligibility.

REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The Department of Health Services will send out a separate letter pertaining to RMA five-month time-eligibility implementation instructions.

Questions concerning refugee program requirements should be directed to your Program Operations Analyst at (916) 323-2131. Questions regarding administrative expense claiming should be directed to Ms. JoAnn Cooper, Fiscal Policy and Procedures Bureau at (916) 657-3293. Questions regarding assistance claiming should be directed to Ms. Stephanie Davis, Fiscal Policy and Procedures Bureau at (916) 657-3440. Any questions concerning statistical reporting should be referred to Ms. Lydia Ayon at (916) 323-1125.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL C. GENEST
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division

Enclosures

cc: David B. Smith
CWDA

NOTICE OF ACTION

COUNTY OF _____

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice Date _____
Case Name _____
Number _____
Worker Name _____
Number _____
Telephone _____
Address _____

(ADDRESSEE)

┌

└

Questions? Ask your Worker.

┌

└

State Hearing: If you think this action is wrong, you can ask for a hearing. The back of this page tells how. Your benefits may not be changed if you ask for a hearing before this action takes place.

As of _____, the County is stopping Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) for _____
(name(s))

Here's why:

By the end of this month, you will have lived in the United States longer than five (5) months.

As of April 1, 1993, a change in federal rules lowered the number of months of RCA you can get. You can't get RCA after you have been in the United States longer than five (5) months, starting with the first day of the month you arrived.

You may be able to get cash aid in another program. Call your worker.

You will get another notice about your Medi-Cal.

Rules: These rules apply; you may review them at your welfare office: MPP 69-203.41, Federal Register No. 58 dated March 1, 1993 (page 11793).

NOTICE OF ACTION

COUNTY OF _____

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice Date _____
Case Name _____
Number _____
Worker Name _____
Number _____
Telephone _____
Address _____

(ADDRESSEE)

┌

┌

Questions? Ask your Worker.

└

└

State Hearing: If you think this action is wrong, you can ask for a hearing. The back of this page tells how. Your benefits may not be changed if you ask for a hearing before this action takes place.

The County has denied your Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) application dated _____.

Here's why:

On April 1, 1993, a change in federal rules lowered the number of months of RCA you can get. You can't get RCA after you have been in the United States longer than five (5) months.

You have lived in the United States longer than five (5) months.

You may be able to get cash aid in another program. Call your worker.

Rules: These rules apply; you may review them at your welfare office: MPP 69-203.41, Federal Register No. 58 dated March 1, 1993 (page 11793).

NOTICE OF ACTION

COUNTY OF _____

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Notice Date _____
Case Name _____
Number _____
Worker Name _____
Number _____
Telephone _____
Address _____

(ADDRESSEE)

┌

┐

Questions? Ask your Worker.

└

┘

State Hearing: If you think this action is wrong, you can ask for a hearing. The back of this page tells how. Your benefits may not be changed if you ask for a hearing before this action takes place.

As of _____, the County has approved your cash aid.

Here's why:

You and your family will get cash aid under the Refugee Cash Assistance Program (RCA).

Your first day of cash aid is _____.

Your first month's cash aid amount is \$ _____.

This amount is based on your full monthly cash aid amount figured on this notice.

This program helps those, like you, who have lived in this country for 5 months or less. It will help you find a job.

You can get cash aid from this program for no more than 5 months. The month you entered the United States is counted as the first month.

Rules: These rules apply; you may review them at your welfare office: MPP 69-206, Federal Register No. 58 dated March 1, 1993 (page 11793).